# *Executive Proclamation*

## *State of South Dakota*
## *Office of the Governor*

***Whereas***, In March 1880, the Presentation Sisters answered the call to Dakota Territory that came when Bishop Martin Marty, at the request of Chief Spotted Tail, invited the Sisters from Dublin, Ireland, to teach the children of the Sioux and the children of settlers struggling to build a future in the Dakotas; and,

***Whereas***, The Presentation Sisters have continued their work in education to this day in the preschools, grade schools, high schools, and colleges of the state, many of which they established; and,

***Whereas***, The Presentation Sisters responded to a new call within the call in 1900 when an epidemic of black diphtheria struck the Aberdeen area, converting their school facilities there into temporary hospital wards, and in 1901 at the request of the civic community, constructed a hospital there, which they named St. Luke's; and,

***Whereas***, The Sisters have started and continued to provide quality health care throughout the Midwest, combining their health ministries with those of the Benedictine Sisters of Yankton, South Dakota, in 1998 to form the health system that is now called Avera and is present in some 100 communities in the region; and,

***Whereas***, The Sisters have undertaken spiritual leadership in the parishes, schools, hospitals, and other ministries since their arrival more than 125 years ago and continue to do so today; and,

***Whereas***, The Sisters, through their apostolic charism, respond to whatever needs they find in the communities of the state, as they have with their ministry to the Hispanic population, Caminando Juntos, seeking compassion and justice, especially for the underserved; and,

***Whereas***, July 16, 2011 marks the 125th anniversary of the Presentation Sisters in South Dakota:

***Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard***, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 16, 2011, as

## *PRESENTATION SISTERS DAY*

in South Dakota.

***In Witness Whereof***, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twelfth Day of July in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

**Attest:**

Judy A. Larson Exec. Asst.

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State